



The problem

- There is not a lot of contact between people and services who are working to implement restorative justice. This lack of contact results in a lack of “common ground”.
- Need to establish a regular exchange, dialogue and debate .



What does it imply?

- Lack of consistent identity
- Limited capacity of lobbying
- Self-referring
- Misuse of the resources
- Lack of sense of membership
- General standstill



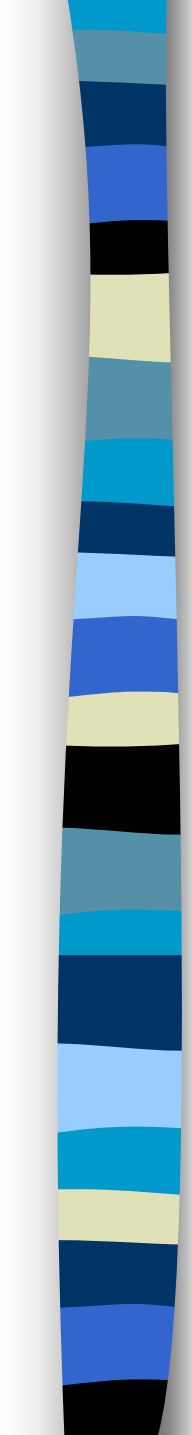
Where does it come from?

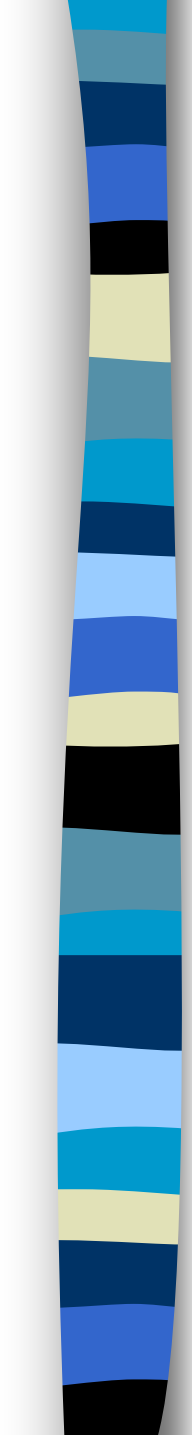
- Lack of a clear legal basis
- It isn't a political priority
- No human resources
- No national funding
- ...but local fundings
- Different intervention models



What happens in other Countries?

- England: National communication between mediators is possible via Mediation UK's magazine "Mediation Matters" and various local and national conferences. The Restorative Justice Consortium also disseminate information about RJ practices.

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- Norway: Mediators receive continuous supervision from the coordinators and they take part in meetings and seminars several times a year. The coordinators have their own network to work on common tasks and interests concerning professional or administrative issues.

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- **Ireland**: there's an annual conference of juvenile Liason officers and national office staff provides a forum for sharing experiences. Regional meetings are also held. In Dublin and cork regular meetings at division level allow local matters to be raised.



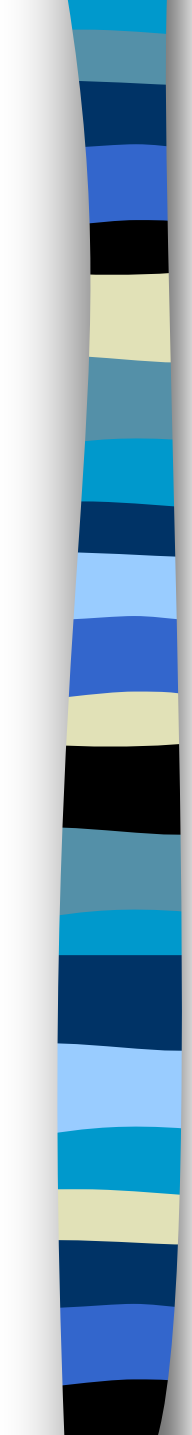
Why it can't be realized in....

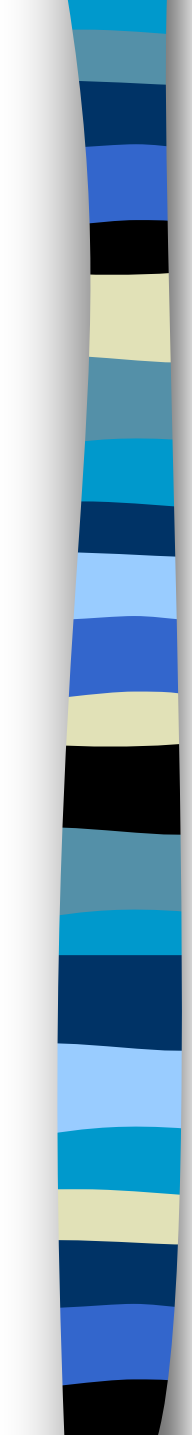
- Lack of funding
- Lack of human resources
- Absence of a "competent" community



Strategies

- Create a coordinating body or an umbrella organisation at a national level, either with a separate entity or integrated in an already existing agency or body. It would function as a permanent forum, as a place where to establish systematic discussion and dialogue on RJ.

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- Create "effective" mechanisms to circulate information on new developments, findings, experiences.
 - Create accessibility.
 - Introduce RJ within the training curricula.
 - ...give RJ away.

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- Stimulate the development of transversal and integrated policies in which resources and tools from different departments would be involved. This would help to achieve more consistency and effectiveness of the implementation.